

First named inventor: Niemand  
Serial no. 10/713,184  
Filed 11/15/2003  
Attorney docket no. 200207096-1

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### REMARKS

#### Claims 1-11

Claim 1 is an independent claim, from which claims 2-11 ultimately depend. Claims 1, 2, and 6-11 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Faulk (5,751,565) in view of Utsunomiya (6,798,086). Claims 3-5 have been objected to as containing allowable subject matter, and which would be formally allowed if rewritten in independent form, including the limitations of their base claims and any intervening claims.

Applicant has carefully reviewed claim 3 in particular, and submits that what particularly renders it patentable over the cited prior art is the recitation of a skewing mechanism that skews comparison of the voltage of the second DC signal between third and fourth voltage levels (different than the first and second voltage levels) in response to receiving the control signal. Stated another way, Applicant has reviewed the cited prior art, and cannot find therein any disclosure of such "skewing[ing] of the comparison of the voltage of [a] second DC signal between third and fourth voltage levels different than the first and the second voltage levels" where the first DC signal is switched to vary the "voltage of the second DC signal between [the] first and second voltage levels."

Accordingly, Applicant has amended claim 1 to recite the variance of "the voltage of the second DC signal between first and second voltage levels," and to recite the feedback mechanism comprising a skewing mechanism "to skew comparison of the voltage of the second DC signal between third and fourth voltage levels different than the first and second voltage levels in response to receiving the control signal." Applicant thus submits that claim 1 is patentable, such that claims 2-11 that ultimately depend therefrom are patentable for at least the same reasons.

#### Claims 12-17

Claims 12-17 have been allowed.

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Claims 18-20

Claim 18 is an independent claim, from which claims 19-20 ultimately depend. Claims 18-20 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Faulk in view of Utsunomiya. Applicant has amended claim 18 similar to claim 1, such that claim 18 is limited to the means "skewing comparison of the voltage of the second DC signal between third and fourth voltage levels different than the first and second voltage levels in response to receiving the control signal." Applicant therefore submits that claim 18 is patentable, such that claims 19-20 are patentable for at least the same reasons.

Claims 21-25

Claim 21 is an independent claim, from which claims 22-25 ultimately depend. Claim 21 has been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Allen (6,538,419) and Konno (6,549,429). Claims 21-25 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Faulk and Utsunomiya in view of Yang (6,496,390). Applicant has amended claim 21 similar to claims 1 and 18, such that the power supply "is to skew comparison of the voltage of the second DC signal between third and fourth voltage levels different than the first and second voltage levels in response to receiving the control signal." Applicant therefore submits that claim 21 is patentable, such that claims 22-25 are patentable for at least the same reasons.

Claims 26-29

Claims 26-29 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Claims 30-34

Claim 30 is an independent claim, from which claims 31-34 ultimately depend. Claims 30-32 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Allen and Konno. Claims 30-

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34 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Faulk and Utsunomiya in view of Yang. Claims 33 and 34 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Faulk and Utsunomiya in view of Allen. Applicant has amended claim 30 similar to claims 1, 18, and 21, such that the method includes "skewing comparison of the voltage of the second DC signal between third and fourth voltage levels different than the first and second voltage levels." As such, Applicant submits that claim 30 is patentable, such that claims 31-34 are patentable for at least the same reasons.

#### Conclusion

Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the pending claims in condition for allowance, and request that they so be allowed. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Mike Dryja, Applicants' Attorney, at 425-427-5094, so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible. For these reasons, this application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Date

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